



April 17, 2012

The Honorable Jeff Miller, Chairman  
House Veterans' Affairs Committee  
335 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

I am writing on behalf of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), a congressionally chartered national veterans service organization with 1.2 million members, all of whom were disabled as a result of wartime active duty in the United States Armed Forces. The DAV works to build better lives for America's disabled veterans, their families and survivors.

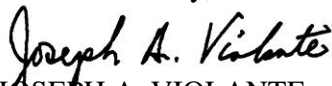
Chairman Miller, we have reviewed your bill, H.R. 4072, Consolidating Veteran Employment Services for Improved Performances Act of 2012. This bill would essentially move the Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) from the Department of Labor (DOL) to the VA, placing it inside the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). The bill would transfer all current functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities under the following programs from DOL to VA:

- Job counseling, training, and placement services for veterans under chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code.
- Employment and training of veterans under chapter 42 of such title.
- Administration of employment and employment rights of members of the uniformed services under chapter 43 of title 38.
- Homeless veterans reintegration programs under chapter 20 of such title.

DAV has long been concerned about the effectiveness of DOL VETS. The Government Accountability Office and DOL's Office of Inspector General have cited problems over the years related to outreach, seamless transition, internal controls, and the measuring and reporting of performance goals and outcomes for veterans. At the same time, VA has expanded its focus on employment as evidenced by the Vocational Rehabilitation service's change to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service as well as the establishment of the position of Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity responsible for VR&E, Education and Home Loan Guaranty services.

As stated in our testimony of March 8, 2012, DAV supports passage of H.R. 4072 as being in the best interest of veterans, especially disabled veterans.

Sincerely,

  
JOSEPH A. VIOLANTE  
National Legislative Director

c: Ranking Member, House Veterans' Affairs Committee Bob Filner

